



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

04 JUN 2008

James Rost
Office of Location and Environment
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Phil Barnes
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
105 6th Street
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Messrs. Rost and Barnes:

RE: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-29 Sioux City
Interstate Study, Woodbury County, Iowa

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-29 Sioux City Interstate Study. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The DEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20080184.

Based on our overall review and the level of our comments, the EPA has rated the DEIS for this project Lack of Objections. A copy of EPA's rating descriptions is provided as an enclosure to this letter.

We offer the following comments to address and minimize potential environmental impacts of the project and to assist the reader to better understand the alternatives and related effects:

Alternative Descriptions and Maps

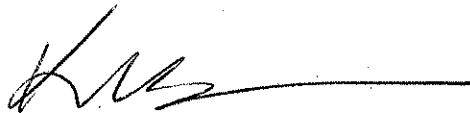
We recommend revising the alternative descriptions in Section 2 to correspond with the respective maps. Currently the descriptions are written to describe the alternatives from the eastside to the westside, but the maps are in west to east order which can be confusing to the reader. We also request that all of the major intersections on the maps in Section 2 be labeled for easy identification.

Sewer Relocation & Regulated Materials

We recommend including an analysis of potential environmental impacts related to the relocation of approximately 9000 feet of sanitary sewer as described in paragraph 3.1.6 Utilities. The areas for relocation should be identified to avoid all "regulated materials" sites to prevent further contamination. In addition we recommend developing a strategy to handle any hazardous substances that may be encountered during construction.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project and your DEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (913) 551-7975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly O. Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kimberly O. Johnson, P.E.

NEPA Reviewer

Environmental Services Division

Enclosure